

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 02104 261922Z

21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

/060 W

----- 116723

R 261844Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4947

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2104

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SWEL, OTRA, PINT, EC

SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT OF "AMIGOS DE LA AMERICAS"

1. EMBASSY WAS VISITED BRIEFLY ON MARCH 7 BY A MR. TED GROSSER REPRESENTING HOUSTON-BASED CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION CALLED "AMIGOS DE LAS AMERICAS". AS DEPARTMENT IS PROBABLY AWARE, "AMIGOS" CONSISTS OF VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED IN IMMUNIZATIONS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF LATIN AMERICA. ACCORDING TO GROSSER, WHO LEFT QUITO ON MARCH 8, A GROUP OF 200 "AMIGOS" ARE PLANNING TO ARRIVE IN ECUADOR SOME TIME IN APRIL TO BEGIN AN INNOCULATION PROGRAM. HE DID NOT REQUEST EMBASSY ASSISTANCE OTHER THAN FOR A BRIEFING WHEN GROUP ARRIVES.

2. MISSION IS CONCERNED THAT "AMIGOS" MAY NOT HAVE COORDINATED VISIT WITH GOE AND THAT THIS COULD GIVE RISE TO POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS. LOCAL PRESS IS AWARE THAT IN THE PAST "AMIGOS" HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF "STERILIZATION CAMPAIGNS" ELSEWHERE IN LA. FOR EXAMPLE, THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF QUITO'S CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY HAS ISSUED A PRESS BULLETIN WHICH APPEARED IN THE MARCH 24 EDITION OF EL COMERCIO, QUITO'S LEADING DAILY, ALLEGING THAT LATIN AMERICA IS THREATENED BY A "GIGANTIC" STERILIZATION CAMPAIGN BEING UNDERTAKEN BY VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. LATER IN SAME BULLETIN, ASSOCIATION STATES, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 02104 261922Z

WITHOUT REFERENCE TO PENDING VISIT, THAT "AMIGOS" WERE

OBLIGED TO LEAVE PERU IN JULY 1974 BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN ACCUSED OF STERILIZING CAMPESINO CHILDREN BY MEANS OF A MEASLES VACCINE.

3. IN LIGHT OF THIS UNFORTUNATE PUBLICITY, WE BELIEVE IT ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT "AMIGOS" COORDINATE ANY CONTEMPLATED VISIT TO ECUADOR WITH GOE WITH THE UTMOST CARE AND THOROUGHNESS BEFORE FINALLY FIRING UP PLANS TO COME.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT FOLLOW-UP OUR INITIAL CONTACT WITH "AMIGOS" THROUGH THEIR HEADQUARTERS, 5618 STAR LANE, HOUSTON, TELEPHONE (713) 782-5290 AND SEEK TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING "AMIGOS" PLANS (PRECISE DATES OF PROPOSED VISIT, ETC.). RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT ALSO SEEK TO ASCERTAIN WHAT COORDINATION "AMIGOS" HAVE EFFECTED WITH GOE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND, IF "AMIGOS" DO NOT HAVE MINISTRY'S WRITTEN CONSENT FOR VISIT, THAT IT BE SOUGHT PRIOR TO FINAL DECISION TO COME HERE. IN INTEREST OF SAVING TIME, EMBASSY WOULD BE PLEASED TO CONVEY "AMIGOS" WRITTEN REQUEST TO GOE HEALTH MINISTRY, IF DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION.  
BREWSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHILDREN, PRESS COMMENTS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, IMMUNIZATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975QUITO02104  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750106-1218  
**From:** QUITO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750313/aaaaaltq.tel  
**Line Count:** 84  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROPOSED VISIT OF "AMIGOS DE LA AMERICAS"  
**TAGS:** SWEL, OTRA, PINT, EC, US, AMIGOS DE LAS AMERICAS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006